



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Falls Church Initiates Green Fleet Policy With Biodiesel Fuel**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – As part of the City's continued commitment to protect the environment, the Falls Church City Council authorized the purchase of biodiesel fuel for use in City vehicles at their regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 13. Biodiesel fuel is a clean-burning alternative fuel produced from domestic, renewable sources. It improves upon the low-sulfur diesel fuel used for the past six years by the City's Department of Environmental Services, which was originally selected as a cleaner-burning alternative to conventional diesel fuel.

The City has a strong commitment to the preservation and renewal of natural resources and the environment, as reinforced in the City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan. Biodiesel is made from soy, canola, or recycled restaurant oils. Biodiesel fuel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic, contributes no net carbon dioxide or sulfur to the atmosphere, and is low in particulate emissions. It can be used in the diesel engines of the City's current fleet with the simple addition of fuel filters and the cleaning and replacement of the filters on the fuel storage tanks. With this change, biodiesel fuel will be used in school buses, fire trucks, refuse trucks, and other heavy-duty vehicles in the City's fleet.

The Council's authorization to purchase biodiesel fuel marks another step in the City's concerted effort to reduce pollution from its vehicle fleet and improve air quality from mobile source emissions. In addition to the use of cleaner burning fuel, the City's Department of Environmental Services experimented with electric vehicles before the introduction of hybrid cars. A comprehensive City "green fleet" policy will be finalized in the near future, and will include purchasing hybrid cars and flex fuel heavy-duty vehicles as current City vehicles are replaced.

The City will ride a state contract for the purchase of the biodiesel fuel, using the same pricing schedule that currently costs an average of only 2 cents more per gallon than low-sulfur diesel fuel, but is significantly more environmentally friendly.

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